**Citizen Advisory Committee: Winter Meeting**

Mar. 11, 2024, 2:00-3:00pm

[*Join the Virtual Meeting*](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3Ameeting_N2I2ODE3NTctMzFjYi00YTljLThlY2UtYzk3YjM1MDY3NDRh%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%227a7681dc-b9d0-449a-85c3-ecc26cd7ed19%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22ea15b1bb-30b1-4891-af6e-96cc1c074ff1%22%7d) *via MS Teams*

[*Meeting Materials*](https://apnep.nc.gov/about-apnep/committees/meeting-materials/citizens-advisory-committee)

**2:00 Welcome & Committee Updates** *Tom Allen/Holly White*

Attendance: Pete, Tom, Holly, Pat, Kay

Staff: Steve, Heather, Jimmy, Bill

An in-person February meeting didn’t end up work out; Steve sent rich email with updates a few weeks ago; appreciate folks being available for this meeting!

* Tom: CAC membership questionnaire
* Holly: Good questions on survey, interesting to see what everyone brings to the table, areas of expertise, issues in everyone’s region, how to better engage people, match people to projects, better utilize volunteer efforts.
* Holly: How long is the survey posted?
* Steve: As long as we want, 8 folks have filled out so far, and will connect with those who did not answer individually to encourage completing; created a few broader picture summary slides.

**2:20 CAC Member Questionnaire** *Holly White/Steve Anderson*

* If you haven’t completed the survey yet, we want all member’s input!
* [*Survey is here*](https://forms.office.com/g/8JirGNTE31)

Covered pretty well, share out again;

Slides: *finalized slide deck will be shared when sending out a summary document prior to spring meeting on April 23, 2024*

1. Which focus areas best suited to contribute community resilience, ecological resilience, water quality, wetlands, SAV
2. Affiliation/discipline – good representation, but need more community and industry (ag and forestry) focused members to represent those groups
3. Consider a CAC led RFP or direct support for BIL - 7 yes maybe 1 / get feedback from you on what that might look like/member-led initiative
4. Members broadly interested in sharing with the group ongoing efforts similar to Holly White example representing RISE portfolio. Members not doing direct work on projects wouldn’t be sharing. APNEP wants to be aware and supportive of current efforts!
5. Do members of this committee know their role? *So-so*, which is pretty telling; we need bylaws and create some organization behind the committee to support more yes’s to that question. APNEP as facilitator needs to make it more clearbased on members wishes for the committee and seeks different approaches to support to achieve goal for NEP as a partnership. We must know what everyone can bring to the table!
6. Open ended questions will be digested and reported as finalized.

Members in attendance responses to this brief sharing of slides:

* Roles not represent - citizen perspective, business, farmer, agencies, etc. need to build out membership in that direction!
* Kay: point made for decades, agency people make policy and often generalize roles and forget the community member position. As a landowner, several 100 acres in Chowan river basins, in her family for generations, she fit none of categories, checked community leaders. (Ensure to add additional and/or “other” category). She used to be heavily involved, but not as much right now. She noted that landowners, extractive industries like ag, mining, forestry, fishing are not represented in the committee, and must be!
* Pete: need key landowners in the APNEP area, and representation from forest products industry. Key components for focus are water quality and wetlands, and consumptive land uses, impacts they have, need those people at the table.
* Tom: Mentioned a Norfolk nonprofit that has a large portion of advisory board as industries, which is their go to approach; another approach is individuals, but what about one of the wood forest products companies, or a small corporation suitable for the CAC?
* Pete: We need both, farming and forestry have a direct impact relative to runoff.
	+ E.g., Mattamuskeet water quality degraded due to those practices, dep on what talking about not need represent of open ground farm huge industrial complex, still care about water quality , ecology of wetland, have farm bureau, corporate and induvial farms owned and managed by people in the community, kay: not exclusive, her farms are corporately owned, LLC, phrases thrown out, huge agriculture, economies of scale, what it takes in 2024, can’t think of anyone not at LLC in last 20 years, she did 30 years ago hog farm, litigious, Smithfield lawsuit, take privately owned wealth, phrases used to vilify, comes off that way even if not intended, if not have a LLC, they are crazy,
* Pat: SWCD have individual landowners, not play in corporate, do make distinction between company farms and growers, growers deal with waste products and take care of land, value going to individual landowner who puts practice on that farm. Work with growers, they don’t always have the same thoughts that company farms have, they are integrator, that may be the difference; great growers, Swan Auarter, Hyde, independent growers left, away from center where animals are produces, some in every county, get to the right person to find that leader, usually the busiest people that’s the problem, a lot don’t want to get into environmental worked, stigma they are causing pollution, infiltration plans, take care of swamp buster issues through farm bill, NENC value have landowners be represented be it forestry, agriculture, etc., take those individuals to make change.
* Tom: looming action item identifying those people, at least flag for contacting in near future.
* **Collaborative efforts w/ STAC**

Co-chairs of CAC and STAC try put heads together to collaborate across the commitees, have talked about a State of the Sounds dashboard, coming up with that and different topic areas, being technical experts /

* Tom: he’s in VA too, see solar farms popping up in southside VA; watershed impacts, NC probably further built out, CAC bring topics to the STAC they could inform or address; have brainstorming chat in next couple of weeks. Dashboard make scientific studies more publicly consumable, bring out into public anymore, not sure if there is an exmplemary case study for that,
* Steve: community-led efforts, research, where happening, etc, could see a visual public facing dashboard for sounds being useful as well; what and where valuable to add to what you are saying; Report cards for watersheds, for example for Ches baby/ open up cans of worms define what you are reporting, goals, etc,
* Kay: when talking about make scientific studies more publicy consumable, news come from less traditional news outlets, use facebook , everyone gets blurbs on facebook, local news channel or story, click through etc,
* Steve: posts several times a week via social media (Facebook, Instagram, X, LinkedIn)
* Kay: Somehow not seeing that, how most people get articles that way can constantly feed information into the web, get lots of news that way now;
* Steve: how as a group keep each other up to date, what staff are using to share out information, you remind me we need to make sure the CAC is aware of those
* Kay: At some point, APNEP is singing to the choir; we need to get beyond that. E.g., 12 year old grandson, what that means, what good if only get message to people who already believe message, so much of what we’re doing recycled amongst the same people, got to find a wider audience
* Steve, Holly and Stacey meeting Down East partner with folks use platforms like social media come up with communications strategy reach folks not being reached, on the ground efforts with communities on a personal level helps too, not always run into same people; Stewardship grants / each of those announced over facebook, snowball the social media a bit;
* Kay: every community have community issue boards over Facebook anymore; not rocket science,
* Holly: could be good if we create content, CAC help identify guidance on topics we post about or share about, identify which groups we can share out ; can share out who are key stakeholders want to connect with in communities, groups active in everybody’s area,
* Kay: low effort for more to share on 4 community boards in upper Chowan basin, take me 45 second, we all have boards we belong to, local government boards, etc., low effort, high potential reward to get the word out
* EST grants send out to those places, snowball get word out raise awareness
* 11 Engagement & Stewardship grants - Review committee
	+ *Thanks to Lora, Pete and Heather for serving!*
* Steve: grant cycle we’ve offered every year/2 years or so, got 11 proposals, encouraged by quality of applicants, happy to share if those are of interested, $80K total thanks to state match 320 funding we normally offer, thanks to CAC members who offered to help review, other folks from the Engagement & Stewardship Committee, have review back, waiting on one more, hope have news by the end of the week to let folks know who is being awarded; in relation to what we are talking about with Facebook and other platforms want to integrate into what we share out as a group, better ways to do that with you all, share out different news, even newsletter/ more intentional effort to connect with different communities, thanks to CAC members for helping with review/ good spread of projects across the region
* Pete: idea suggested make final selections based on geography, can identify, Hyde county page etc., get information out within the geography that it’s going to occur,
* Kay: these awards are with public money correct, no private money, etc. community needs to know that; idea of local govt page excellent, ask whoever you contact in those counties, email admins of those groups, any other local groups suggest we can share information to / Soil and Water Conservation Districts another good one
* Steve: love suggestions, write down try to do better as we go / incorporate into these efforts.
* Tom: when those are awarded, put those on the agenda, task CAC to share locally as well

**2:10 Committee Logistical Updates** *Steve Anderson*

* Building out CAC re-occurring updates and webpage
* [BIL webpage](https://apnep.nc.gov/BIL) project update, updated workplan & CAC RFP (*Stacey Feken*)
	+ <https://apnep.nc.gov/BIL>

Created BIL webpage, give feedback if you feel like something is confusing, really wanting to build that out as things are funded, plan to link to focus areas for new CCMP; page for resilience, SAV, WQ, etc. similar to discussion we just had/ link to external efforts to what projects are working on, if have thoughts on content feel free to let him know; he manages website,

main thing - want to put specific funding to CAC what group can lead/ through an RFP or direct support, built $100K whatever you suggest (will share work plan entry next spring CAC meeting), look at CCMP or BIL priority areas start to come up with plan where see biggest needs in area,

get brains stirring/ have projects from latest EST could support, could do a separate approach,

Stacey: update - direct support/ have projects we’re developing can share out/ executive summary of projects, great for you to know about those, ties back to / get additional input so as inclusive as possible/ meet with STAC brainstorming, researching…

* Water quality / water level monitoring gaps there; greenstream / norfolks /
* Cayla/ southern watersheds / Chowan watershed / we could get CAC input on where to put those stations,
* Check forecast for flooding, verfity, NWS, collect data that can be used to improve the forecast, can also attach a WQ sensor, kay ask what parameters, what is purpose, etc.
* Establishing bylaws
* Next Meeting (April 23) - revisit questionnaire

**2:45 Member Open Floor / CAC Chugging Forward** *Holly White/Tom Allen*

* Pete: Grants review circle back/outreach; one of those grants mentioned as a product, used same approach to have general publish understand what trying to do lake Mattamuskeet and surrounding areas, consider requesting as an output for each grant, storyboard, describe what project is all about, add to that when project done with results in addition to written report, those things you can populate webpage, easily digestible, graphics, things general public have; in following, similar recommendation received from multiple reviewers, great summarize outputs.
* Tom: have interns/ have interviews this week for a summer intern for this type of thing, low handing fruit can share out projects that have already happened, opportunities to engage even more students, things can promote with partners as well can be supportive as well,
* Kay: wrote local newspaper, editor, people react to most positively if you put a picture of grandchild; feature the faces of the local people; particularly young people, pin hopes on young people in communities, particularly country communities, brush up against smart people from universities, and organizations, etc. how did they get involved, means something pictures of faces they love and know

**3:00 Adjourn**

**Running list of Future Discussion Topics**

1. Community and scientist engagement
	* *State of the Sounds* report-card or dashboard - as a means for CAC/STAC cross-committee collaboration
	* Distribution of Engagement and Stewardship grants and other update to CAC member to share out in their network (especially projects that are funded with pubic dollars.
2. Legal issues in wetlands, sea level rise in planning.
3. CAC/STAC collaborations
4. Current regional topics
	* Atlantic Coast Pipeline
	* Land conversion and use (i.e., “green” or “renewables”) – NCSU and JMU contacts
		+ Solar Farms (North Hampton Co.)
		+ Forest conversion to soft pines pellet mills
		+ Biogas
	* Economics of these renewable energy projects
	* APNEP’s stance on renewable land-use and impacts on economy, forestry, agriculture, tourism and ecotourism.
5. Funding projects
	* CAC driven projects with BIL funding
	* Military partnerships